

Whale Beaching as an Evolutionary Response to Increase Survival Chances of Offspring

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Introduction

Marine biologists continue to debate the underlying impetus for whales to beach themselves, with many taking advantage of the mystery by arguing for restrictions on the use of sonar and the reduction of engine noise coming from ships. It has been my observation that these opponents of transcontinental shipping have a political agenda and are not interested in getting to the bottom of the phenomenon of whale beaching.

Abstract

Although whales do not have any significant predators, there are many species that are capable of feeding upon some of the same food sources whales depend upon. If a whale dies at sea of old age, its carcass will attract predators that could not otherwise mount an effective attack against a living whale. These food source competitors, attracted to the carcasses of whales, when they are finished consuming the remains of whales that die at sea, will begin feeding on the whales' food sources. This reduces the chances for survival of whale offspring. As whales are slower swimmers than their food competitors, they cannot coexist in the same waters as faster swimmers that share the same food sources.

Conclusion

I therefore must come to the conclusion that whales developed the ability to become aware of their biological age and overall health and are able to communicate this information within their whale calls. When whales reach a certain age, they begin to congregate with other elderly and sick whales and form a new traveling group. Once these groups have picked up all of the elderly and sickly whales they can find in the local region, they make the journey toward the nearest shoreline, where they instinctively beach themselves to avoid attracting food source competitors to the native region of their younger whale counterparts. This increases the chances for survival of their collective offspring, meaning that whale beaching is an evolutionary, adaptive behavior and is likely not the result of oceanic noise pollution.